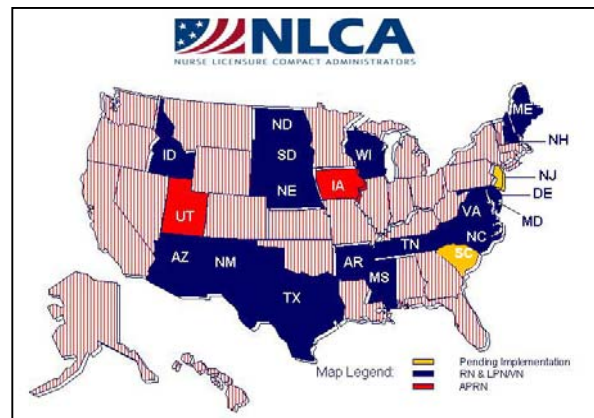


States Enacting the NLC

As of January 2006, the following states belong to the NLC:

COMPACT STATES	IMPLEMENTATION DATE
Arizona	7/1/2002
Arkansas	7/1/2000
Delaware	7/1/2000
Idaho	7/1/2001
Iowa	7/1/2000
Maine	7/1/2001
Maryland	7/1/1999
Mississippi	7/1/2001
Nebraska	1/1/2001
New Hampshire	1/1/2006
New Jersey	TBD
New Mexico	1/1/2004
North Carolina	7/1/2000
North Dakota	1/1/2004
South Carolina	TBD
South Dakota	1/1/2001
Tennessee	7/1/2003
Texas	1/1/2000
Utah	1/1/2000
Virginia	1/1/2005
Wisconsin	1/1/2000

Several states are planning to introduce legislation to join the compact including Colorado, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, and Montana.



Information on the Nurse Licensure Compact will be printed in future issues of the *KBN Connection*, as well as posted on the KBN website at kbn.ky.gov. Send questions or comments regarding the compact to the Board office at KBN.BoardQuestions@ky.gov.

You can also contact Sue Derouen, NLC Project Coordinator, at Sue.Derouen@ky.gov, or Nathan Goldman, General Counsel, at Nathan.Goldman@ky.gov.



What is the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)?

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is a mutual recognition model for nurse licensure that permits a registered nurse or a licensed practical (vocational) nurse to hold one license in his or her home state (primary state of residency) and to practice in other compact states (referred to as remote states). Under mutual recognition, practice across state lines is allowed, whether physical or electronic, unless the nurse's license is under discipline or there exists a monitoring agreement that restricts practice across state lines. The mutual recognition model is similar to the motor vehicle driver license model that allows United States citizens to drive throughout the country on a driver's license issued by a state. In order to achieve mutual recognition, each state has to enter into the interstate compact through legislation.

Kentucky Board of Nursing (KBN) Plan to Adopt NLC

KBN has adopted, in principle, the Nurse Licensure Compact Plan for Kentucky. The current plan for Kentucky encompasses a three-year period. In 2005, Board representatives will be available to meet with stakeholders and provide information on the NLC. Questions and comments can be emailed to KBN at KBN.BoardQuestions@ky.gov. Updates are available on the KBN website at <http://kbn.ky.gov/nlc.htm>.

Kentucky Board of Nursing
312 Whittington Pky, Ste 300
Louisville, KY 40222-5172
502-429-3300 or 1-800-305-2042
Website: kbn.ky.gov

Additional general information regarding the compact may be found in the Nurse Licensure Compact section of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) website, www.ncsbn.org. At this time, the Board plans to seek legislation in the 2006 Session of the General Assembly, with 2007 as the anticipated year for implementation of the NLC in Kentucky.

Scope of Practice of the RN/LPN in the NLC

The NLC provides that the nurse be held accountable for the nursing practice laws and other regulations in the state where the patient is located at the time care is rendered. This accountability is similar to the motor vehicle driver who must obey the driving laws in the state where he or she is driving. The accountability for safe practice by a nurse is no different from what is expected today. Under the NLC, states will continue to have complete authority in determining licensure requirements and disciplinary actions against a nurse's license according to the state's nursing laws.

Eligible License Types

In the NLC, a registered or licensed practical (vocational) nurse whose primary state of residence is a compact state (home state) is issued a license by that state and no longer needs individual licenses to practice in other compact states (remote states). By virtue of the NLC, the licensee is granted the "multistate privilege" to practice in other compact states.

A nurse who lives in a non-compact state and applies for licensure in a compact state is issued a nursing license valid only in that compact state (single state license). The licensee holding a single state license will not be granted the "multistate privilege to practice" in any compact states.

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) are still required to obtain authorization in each state to practice as ARNPs.

State of Residency Determines Jurisdiction

The NLC is similar to many other familiar activities based on state of residence, including obtaining a drivers license, paying taxes and voting. Given the many employment configurations in which nurses work, there is likely to be less confusion about where a nurse resides than about the location of his or her primary state of practice.

Locating a nurse in the event of a complaint/investigation would be more readily accomplished with a residence or address link, rather than a practice or employment link. Upon moving their permanent residence to another compact state, RNs or LPNs/LVNs will be required to apply for and be issued a nurse license by the new state of residency.

Nurses Living in Non-Compact State but Work in Compact State

Nurses working in a compact state, but living in a non-compact state, are required to obtain a single state license in the compact state prior to practicing in the compact state.

Nurses living in a compact state, but working in a non-compact state, are also required to obtain a single state license in the non-compact state prior to practicing in that state.

Verification of Licensure

The state that issues the nursing license can verify that license. The license can also be verified by contacting Nursys™ at the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). Nursys™ is a coordinated licensure information system that employers may access for a fee to verify licensure of any nurse holding a compact license.

Reporting/Processing Complaints in the NLC

Complaints may be reported to either the home state (state of residency) or the remote state (state of practice). The investigation may be conducted by both the home and remote state. All investigative information would be shared between the compact states involved. The home state may take disciplinary action against the nurse's license while the remote state(s) may take disciplinary action against the nurse's practice privilege.

For example, the remote state (state of practice) may issue a cease and desist order to the nurse, and the home state (state of residency) may also take action against the license of that nurse.

Does the NLC Affect the Authority to Discipline?

The NLC does not affect the authority of the state of residency to discipline. As provided in the NLC, both the home state (residency state) and remote state, where the patient is located at the time the incident occurred, may take disciplinary action and thus directly address the behavior of the nurse licensed by a compact state.

The NLC actually enhances the home state of residency's ability to discipline. Through ready exchange of investigative information, the home state of residency has the most current and accurate information in order to better determine the appropriate course of action in disciplinary cases.

Questions?

Send questions or comments regarding the compact to the Kentucky Board of Nursing office at KBN.BoardQuestions@ky.gov. Updates will be posted on the KBN website and listed in future issues of the *KBN Connection*.